

- 4 -

CLAIMS

In the Claims

Please **CANCEL** claims 7-10 without prejudice or disclaimer.

A copy of all pending claims and a status of each claim is provided below.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a tube from an elongate sheet of material having a pair of lateral edges, said method comprising the steps of:

forming the elongate sheet into a tube such that the lateral edges of the sheet overlap to define an overlap region having an inner overlap portion and an outer overlap portion;

punching the inner overlap portion and outer overlap portion of the tube to define a tab in each, each tab including a fold portion and a free end extending away from the fold portion, said tabs being aligned such that the tab defined in the inner overlap portion is directly underneath the tab defined in the outer overlap portion; and

folding the tabs at the fold portions about a fold axis whereby the inner overlap portion and outer overlap portion are fixed together, wherein the tab reduces in dimension parallel to the fold axis between the fold portion and free end such that the folded tabs cannot translate relative to each other in a direction orthogonal to the fold axis and parallel to the inner and outer overlap portions.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tabs are folded inwardly.

- 5 -

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tabs are substantially V or U shaped.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tabs are simultaneously punched.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein complementary pairs of tabs are provided along the length of the tube at regular intervals.

6. (Previously Presented) The tube formed according to the method defined in any one of claims 1 to 5.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).

11.-14. (Cancelled).